FBIS DAILY REPORT

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VIDELA, PINOCHET BEGIN MEETING IN MENDOZA

PY191429Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1420 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] Mendoza, 19 Jan--The presidents of Argentina and Chile, Gen Jorge Rafael Videla and Gen Augusto Pinochet, began meeting alone this morning at 1019 in the headquarters of the 4th Brigade in Plumerillo in the office of the commander of the unit.

Talks Conclude, Pinochet Leaves

PY200135Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0104 GMT 20 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Mendoza, 19 Jan--The meeting between the presidents of Chile and Argentina, Generals Augusto Pinochet and Jorge Rafael Videla, held today at the headquarters of the 4th Air Brigade at the Plumerillo Base in De Las Heras Department, ended at 2130.

After the meeting ended and the national hymns of both countries were played, General Pinochet and the committee accompanying him left for the Andean capital at 2150. General Videla bade him farewell at the airbase with a 21-gun salute. The plane carrying the Chilean president was escorted by seven planes from the 4th Air Brigade. The Argentine chief of state accompanied the Chilean president to the plane's boarding ramp.

Present at the airbase were Maj Gen Jorge Sixto Fernandez, governor of the province; Maj Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez, commander of III Army Corps; Gen Juan Pablo Saa, commander of the 8th Mountain Infantry Brigade; Col Jose Carlos Gonzalez Castro, commander of the 4th Air Brigade; and other high-ranking military officials.

Communique Issued

PY200059Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0031 GMT 20 Jan 78 PY

[Communique released by the presidency at 2100 on 19 January at the headquarters of the 4th Airborne Brigade regarding the meeting between Generals Videla and Pinochet]

[Text] In accordance with what had opportunely been agreed upon, the presidents of Chile and Argentina, Generals Augusto Pinochet Ugarte and Jorge Rafael Videla respectively, met today in the city of Mendoza. During the course of the discussions, the two governments affirmed that their goal is to seek formulas which will allow the overall negotiation of the basic questions which concern the relations between the two countries, especially those which affect the southern area, within the framework of the traditional and historical Argentine-Chilean friendship.

Within this spirit, the basis was laid for the achievement of an understanding which will permit the seeking of a solution to matters of common concern. To this effect, the two chiefs of state have agreed to meet in Chile next week.

On proceeding this way, the two presidents are certain that they have placed all their efforts in interpreting the joint deep desires of peace, friendship and progress of their peoples.

HERALD Pessimistic About Summit

PY1916l6Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 19 Jan 78 p 8 PY

[Editorial: "A Difficult Summit"]

[Text] Not many hopes have been aroused by the meeting scheduled for today in Mendoza between the president and his Chilean counterpart. This is just as well. There are few indications that either side is willing to make the concessions necessary if a compromise solution to the problems resulting from a court of arbitration's ruling on the Beagle Channel dispute is to be reached. About the best that can be hoped for is that the two presidents will agree to give themselves and their governments more time to discuss possible alternatives to a diplomatic conflict that could quite conceivably lead to war. If the meeting results in nothing more than an exchange of courtesies and the reiterations of already known positions, then it will be positively harmful, because it will mean that one possible option to a collision--a summit conference--will have been wasted.

Even at its present stage, the Beagle dispute is doing neither Argentina nor Chile any good at all in the world at large. Comment elsewhere, especially in Latin America, has been hostile to both countries. Tendentious links have been invented between the kinds of government--military, de facto, anti communist--in power on both sides of the Andes and their supposed inherent willingness to hurl themselves at each other's throats. As the Chilean Government and ours are endeavouring to prove to the rest of the Western world that they are not what their enemies paint them, worldwide reaction to the Beagle dispute must be taken into account by both.

The Argentine position, as described by Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes in recent statements, is reasonable. The ruling, he reportedly said, is unacceptable not because the court was biased or incompetent or because it does not suit Argentina, but because of the legal errors it contains. Unfortunately, the level-headed maturity of the foreign minister does not characterize some of the groups who have concerned themselves with this by no means straightforward dispute. Belligerent and wildly irresponsible statements made by some individuals have made the government's task very much harder than it would have otherwise been. They have removed the dispute from the domain of reason to the domain of mindless chauvinistic passion, where every settlement is bound to appear humiliating.

President Pinochet, to judge by his behaviour since the January 4 referendum, is unlikely to back down very much in Mendoza. President Videla also has little room in which to manoeuvre: He can hardly negotiate, because negotiators must be prepared to give up something in return for something else, and public reaction to anything smacking of "surrender" could be damaging. Perhaps the two presidents will manage to freeze the problem for a while in the hope that more thought and less emotion can be dedicated to finding a mutually acceptable solution. If they do not, then movement towards a thoroughly unnecessary tragedy could become much harder to slow down.

VI. 20 Jan 78 B O L I V I A

GOVERNMENT TO TRY SILES SALINAS, OTHER STRIKERS

PY191537Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[From the "Facetas" program]

[Text] "Facetas" has learned from official sources that the government has begun legal action for a trial of those it believes caused or instigated public unrest. Involved are those who participated in or are participating in the hunger strike demanding an amnesty.

We have seen one of the legal documents now in the hands of the La Paz District Court, which names 25 or 30 of the hunger strikers. Former President Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas heads the list. The priests (Luis Espinal), (Javier Arbo) and Father (Murillo) are also there, as well as (Gregorio Iriarte), (Domitila Chilaver) and others we cannot remember now. There are 25 to 30 names.

They will be accused of violating many clauses of the criminal law. We note that (?articles) 213 and 322 have repeatedly been used by the government against persons thought to have disturbed public order.

We repeat: Many of the hunger strikers who demanded and are demanding a general and unrestricted political amnesty, will be tried by the ordinary courts under this indictment, which has already been received by the Supreme District Court.

OFFICIALS PROTEST GOVERNMENT ACTION, RESIGN

PY191245Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[From the "Facetas" program]

[Text] Many voices have been heard criticizing the harsh government actions against the hunger strikers. This has even caused reaction in official circles.

Julio Mantilla, who was sworn in as president of the Electoral Court a few days ago, submitted a letter of resignation from the post in view of the events which occurred on the morning of 17 January. It has been learned that the resignation was not accepted by the court, so Mantilla's position is still uncertain.

There are, however, other resignations. It was confirmed today that Javier Arce Villalba, press and information secretary of the presidency, and Edwin Tapia Frontanilla submitted their resignations. Of course, they are usually relieved after carrying out their duties.

According to confidential reports they will join official presidential candidate Juan Pereda as advisers during his campaign, which will probably become intensive in the next few weeks. This is only rumor, but they have certainly resigned.

Other sources said they disagreed with government officials. This would at least be true for Tapia Frontanilla, who was secretary general of the presidency. He represented the government in talks with the Permanent Human Rights Assembly on the hunger strike. But while the talks were going on police raided the hunger strikers and detained them.

Javier Arce Villalba is another important person whose position in Bolivian politics is well known. I think the resignation of these two men is worth extensive comment.

PEREDA ASBUN'S IMAGE SEEN TARNISHED BY HUNGER STRIKE

PY192018Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1745 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[By Eduardo Perez Iribarne]

[Text] La Paz, 19 Jan--Observers have said today that the hunger strike in demand of a general amnesty, which ended here last night after 21 days of fasting, has changed the interrelation of Bolivian political forces for the coming general elections to be held on 9 July.

Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, the official candidate at the coming elections, has suffered an electoral reverse, despite not having directly participated in the conflict between the government and the strikers, or rather because he did not participate, they added. A prompt and effective mediation by Pereda would have won the proclaimed candidate a popularity which he needs, they said.

So far, no other candidate has been proclaimed, because all the political parties were waiting for an unrestricted amnesty to begin. It was added that neither Pereda nor his advisers knew how to make a correct appraisal of the scope of the hunger strike, which won increasing support in most sectors, even among those who support the official candidate.

A high government official recognized today that Pereda had more prestige before the hunger strike than now. The political parties without exception supported the hunger strike in demand of political amnesty, whereas General Pereda criticized the attitude of the strikers, it was stressed. A politician of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] added that this contradiction led to "an irreparable divorce between the official candidate and the political parties."

Pereda can count on the Unity Committee, created by high government officials in support of his candidacy, and on large peasant sectors and middle class groups which want present political stability to continue. It was asserted that most businessmen will support the official candidacy.

The observers have forecast, however, that most political parties, from the center-right to the radical left, will support the candidacy of former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, who seems to have the greatest possibility of winning the coming elections.

The final attitude which the armed forces will take regarding Pereda's candidacy will be another important factor at the upcoming elections, they said. It was recognized in government circles that the image of the military government has been "devalued" through the hunger strike crisis. The observers concluded: "Pereda's advisers will have to make an effort to recover the lost image and convince the electorate that the candidate had no responsibilities during the long political strike."

ITAMARATY DENIES CONCESSIONS ON URANIUM SUPPLY

PY191704Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Brazil did not make any special concessions to URENCO--the consortium of the FRG, the Netherlands and Great Britain--by accepting IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspection of the utilization of enriched uranium, which URENCO will supply to the Angra II and III [as published] nuclear plants.

The document summarizing the results of the negotiations held last week by the four governments--a memorandum of understanding exchanged among Itamaraty and the embassies of Great Britain, the Netherlands and the FRG--only expressed the decision of the four governments to implement and strengthen Article 12-A-5 of the IAEA regulations, signed by these governments more than 20 years ago.

An Itamaraty official denied reports that Brazil gave in to pressure from the Netherlands, demanding special guarantees in the contract for the supply of enriched uranium signed between URENCO and NUCLEBRAS.

In a memorandum to be forwarded to the IAEA in Vienna within the next few days, Brazil suggests that the safeguards set in Article 12-A-5 be complied with not only by the Brazilian Government, but by all the other signatories of the IAEA statutes, "without discrimination."

GEISEL RETURNS AFTER 5-DAY TRIP TO MEXICO

PY191519Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[By (Luiz Carlos Berna)]

[Excerpt] After 5 days in Mexico, 3 of them on an official visit, President Ernesto Geisel returned to Brazil yesterday. In general, his visit was more successful politically than economically, as expected by the press.

STM STUDYING REFORM OF NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

PY191747Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Jan 78 p 8 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--The National Security Law, which the Superior Military Court [STM] considers very strict and difficult to enforce, will be amended this year, according to Justice Ministry sources. Although it is not confirmed, a group of specialists may already be working on the amendments.

The amendments will specially affect penalties, which in most cases are too heavy for the degree of guilt--so much so that the STM has to apply lighter penalties, since those contemplated by the National Security Law are stricter than those in the common penal law. Elimination of the death penalty is also being considered.

BANNED PDC MEMBERS LIVE IN 'DEPLORABLE' CONDITIONS

PY191953Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1530 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 19 Jan--Patricio Aylwin, former president of the dissolved Christian Democratic Party of Chile, today affirmed that the 12 Chilean Christian Democrat militants banned in the northern part of the country live in "deplorable" conditions.

Aylwin, a former president of the Senate, visited the mountain region where the group of former parliamentarians and political leaders were sent after their arrest last Friday in Santiago. They were accused of "violating the political recess," which has been in effect in Chile since 1973.

Aylwin said he saw "deplorable health, climate, living, supply and communications conditions at these places, which are located several thousand meters above sea level." The former legislator said the majority of those banned to these places had to report daily to the police headquarters located many kilometers from where they live.

With respect to the health of the detainees, Aylwin said that Tomas Reyes, a former president of the Senate, was ill, and that the authorization for a medical visit was requested from Arica, 2000 km north of Santiago. Finally, he said that "former Deputy Andres Aylwin is suffering from a bronchial condition that could prove fatal if he should fall ill."

News Reports Prohibited

PY192307Y Buenos Aires Latin in Spanish 2011 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 19 Jan--The government prohibited today the dissemination of news concerning 12 members of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) who, accused of breaking the current political recess, have been banished to the extreme north of the country.

The prohibition was implemented through a proclamation released by the deputy chief of the Metropolitan Zone, Brig Gen Hector Orozco Sepulveda. The document indicates that up to the present time, the information concerning the people who have been banished has been of an "extremely inadvisable" sensationalist nature. In accordance with the state of emergency which the country is experiencing, the infringement of the prohibition by the media will mean punishment through confiscation or through transitory or definite suspension.

The National Information Center (DNI) indicated yesterday that those who have been banished were surprised with material and documents of a "political nature" in their possession. The documents outlined various plans of the Christian Democratic Labor Organization and plans for implementing a progressive national strike, the DNI reported.

BRIEFS

NEW MINISTRY OFFICIAL--The Executive branch has appointed (Rolando Stein) as the new director of international organizations of the Foreign Ministry. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 18 Jan 78]

ARREST WARRANT UPHELD AGAINST CHAMBER PRESIDENT

PA180305Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The 11th Superior Court judge has upheld the arrest warrant issued by the 27th Criminal Court judge against Alberto Santofimio Botero, former justice minister and current president of the Chamber of Representatives. The decision, which had been awaited by the whole nation, was announced to the Bogota news media, the Public Ministry and Santofimio Botero's defense lawyer Cesar Montoya Ocampo. Sources of the 11th Superior Court have said that an arrest warrant was immediately issued against the Tolima politician and that it will be made effective in Ibague where Santofimio Botero can currently be found. The decision, which did not come as a surprise to interested sectors, nevertheless has caused a commotion and opened a debate on parliamentary immunity which, according to some persons, the controversial Tolima politician might still enjoy.

Meanwhile, in Ibague there was great consternation upon learning of the Bogota judge's ruling on the arrest warrant against Alberto Santofimio Botero. Small demonstrations were staged through some of the city's streets in support of Santofimio Botero while at his residence, located on 2d and 7th Streets, many of his supporters gathered in support of his policy [words indistinct] seen as a political move. Shortly after learning of the decision, the president of the Chamber of Representatives (?went), amid a large throng of his supporters, to the Ibague jail to place himself at the disposition of the authorities.

The Ibague authorities have ordered strict security measures, including control of the city's main streets, as a preventive measure to safeguard public order and prevent clashes between pro-Santofimio demonstrators and those of other political groups. Groups of his supporters have gathered at Santofimio Botero's house in the neighborhood of [passage indistinct] Supporters of Santofimio Botero will mount a permanent guard at the residence of the well-known Tolima politician and will spend the night in [words indistinct] of Ibague.

The Tolima legislator has confirmed his decision to stand trial so that he can defend himself against the charges. He also said he will not (?hide) behind immunity and will honor the judicial decision in order to wage a battle to prove his innocence and political and personal honesty. Strict security measures have been implemented in Ibague in order to prevent disorders by supporters of Santofimio Botero.

EXTREMISTS KILL POLICE OFFICER IN VALLE DEPARTMENT

PA162141Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--A police officer was killed and another seriously wounded by a group of strongly armed extremists, a police source reported. The policemen were on a special mission when they were ambushed by the extremists in Alanca Corregimiento, Buga Municipality, Valle Department. The police officers were identified as Luis Antonio Rosero, who died from six bullet wounds, and Miguel Angel Cervantes, who was seriously wounded. Cervantes was shot five times. The extremists, presumably members of a guerrilla organization, took the police officers' weapons and then fled to the mountains. Several police patrols have been dispatched to the zone where the policemen were ambushed.

ECUADOR, PERU COMMANDS TO MEET ON BORDER INCIDENT

PA2002385Y Quito Cadena Del Triunfo in Spanish 0205 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Statements by Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Jose Ayala Lasso at the Foreign Ministry in Quito--presumably live]

[Text] [word indistinct] the press communique that I now release to you in relation with the communique issued by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry last night and published in the newspaper today. I must add to what was stated in the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry communique by noting that the high military commands of Ecuador and Peru have agreed to meet tomorrow to discuss the existing situation, to seek more adequate means to prevent border incidents and to take measures so that calm will prevail and there will be harmony between the two countries. This is what the Ecuadorean Government desires, and it hopes that (?with the agreement) of the Peruvian Government it will be possible to normalize the situation as soon as possible. [indistinct passage]

ECUADOR REPLIES TO PERUVIAN COMMUNIQUE

PA2004127Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0302 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry 19 January communique in reply to the Peruvian Foreign Ministry 18 January communique on airspace and territorial violations--read by announcer]

[Text] In connection with the communique issued by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry yesterday concerning the border incidents, the origin of which it attributed to Ecuador, the Foreign Ministry states:

Ecuador, always concerned about a permanent solution of the territorial problem with Peru, has maintained a policy of constant readiness to talk and negotiate in order to reach definite understandings through peaceful means. In this spirit it has not only not provoked incidents, but has searched for friendly solutions to situations provoked by Peruvian soldiers, many of which fortunately have been solved in an atmosphere of harmony. For the same reason it has made every effort to see that relations between the armed forces of the two countries continue in a climate of mutual understanding.

The Peruvian communique dated 18 January contains affirmations to which the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry replies:

1. The clear area in question to which the Peruvian communique refers as item number 1, situating it in the sector of Jimenez Banda, is in the Ecuadorean area of estandaime.

2. In the last few days of November, 1977, a group of Ecuadorean soldiers lost in the jungle was arrested by Peruvian soldiers. The Peruvian authorities, correctly analyzing what happened, released them.

3. The Heliports constructed by Ecuador are in Ecuadorean territory.

4. Ecuadorean airspace has been violated several times by Peruvian planes in the last few months. On at least two occasions Peruvian helicopters landed, without apparent justification, in Ecuadorean locations. Ecuador always dealt with these incidents in a spirit of understanding.

5. On 10 January, in the Ecuadorean sector of Huasaga, the presence of a group of persons dressed in Peruvian military uniforms gave rise to an incident in which one of those persons was accidentally killed. Ecuador deplored the death and proceeded to turn the body over to the appropriate Peruvian military authorities.

6. On 16 January an Ecuadorean patrol on normal patrol duty in the Andean sector of El Condor was intercepted by a patrol of approximately 20 Peruvian army soldiers who opened fire, wounding an Ecuadorean soldier. On 18 January an Ecuadorean helicopter went to El Condor to pick up the wounded soldier and bring in supplies. As it was flying over El Condor, it was subject to intensive fire from a group of Peruvian soldiers. The personnel in the helicopter were forced to fire two bursts of gunfire.

7. Yesterday afternoon the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry called the Peruvian ambassador to express its surprise over the incidents, to brief him on the facts surrounding the events and to request that his Foreign Ministry adopt the necessary measures to reestablish the climate of understanding between the two countries.

8. Within the spirit of cooperation and good will which Ecuador has always expressed, yesterday the president of the Supreme Council of Government, Vice Adm Aldredo Poveda Burbano, called Peruvian President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez by telephone and expressed the necessity of jointly promoting procedures to coordinate the movement of the two armed forces to prevent future incidents and to fully reestablish the climate of cordiality which should exist between their respective countries.

9. The Ecuadorean Government shares the deep concern expressed in the Peruvian communique over any incident which could occur along the border and also believes that it is necessary to agree on measures to prevent their repetition in order not to disrupt the peace and not to compromise bilateral relations, which it has the desire to maintain in harmony and friendship.

10. The Ecuadorean Government, which has repeatedly demonstrated its willingness to find a friendly solution to these situations while protecting the national dignity and sovereignty, reaffirms its constant desire for peace and its desire to maintain a climate of coexistence and frank understanding with Peru. This noble aspiration naturally requires, for its fulfillment, the cooperation of Peru.

SIXTO DURAN BALLEN NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENCY

PA191654Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] Sixto Duran Ballen has been nominated presidential candidate by the Constitutionalist National Front. Duran Ballen, who is the mayor of Quito, accepted the nomination on the condition that he receive the support of a coalition of parties, thus assuring his victory. In the meantime, the mayor has not resigned. This is not necessary because neither the constitution approved in the referendum nor the election law to be issued soon by the government prevented him from continuing in the post.

HIJACKED SAETA PLANE RETURNS TO ECUADOR

PA191551Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1515 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Panama City, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Caravelle plane belonging to the Ecuadorean SAETA Airline that was hijacked on Wednesday today returned [as received] to Ecuador from Cuba after making a stop in Panama.

The 25 persons aboard the airliner (6 crewmembers and 10 passengers) are all in good health and said they received good treatment in both Havana and Panama.

Patricio Mosquera, the plane's pilot and commander, and two stewardesses talked about the incidents during the hijacking and said that the greatest moment of tension occurred in Guayaquil, when a strongly armed group of paratroopers remained under the plane debating whether or not to assault it. But the fact that the hijackers had dynamite discouraged the special Ecuadorean troops from taking any action against the air pirates.

When they were flying from Quito to Guayaquil, a man approached one of the stewardesses and showed her an automatic pistol and a stick of dynamite. He then said: "This is a hijacking."

The hijacker asked to be taken to a Colombian town whose name has been forgotten by both the crew and the passengers, but the commander told them he only had enough fuel to go to Guayaquil.

In this city, it was known that there were at least two hijackers (a young woman had made her appearance), although the hijackers stated that there was a third, unidentified person who was observing the situation and was ready to detonate the dynamite in the event of problems.

The plane, without the hijackers--who turned out to be only the pair originally described since the third was purely imaginary--returned to Panama and from here left at 1426 GMT for Quito.

BRIEFS

CONTRACT WITH MEXICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE--The Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation (CEPE) has signed a contract with the Mexican Petroleum Institute for the training of personnel who will work in the liquid gas plant being constructed in the eastern jungle region. CEPE will pay approximately (?200,000) sucres for the training of four engineers and 16 middle-level technicians. [Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Jan 78 PA]

TWENTY REMAIN JAILED ON SUBVERSION CHARGES

PY190147Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 18 Jan 78 p 10 PY

[Excerpts] According to a legal resolution, 20 persons who have allegedly violated Law No 209/70 of defense of public peace and freedom of individuals will continue to be detained at Emboscada prison. Bernabe Valdez Martinez, criminal judge appointed for the court recess, confirmed the detention of these persons. It was learned that starting 2 February these persons will testify before the criminal court.

WANTED SUBVERSIVE TAKES REFUGE IN MEXICAN EMBASSY

PY191723Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Jan 78 p 21 PY

[Text] Mirtha Elena Ayala Ferreira has sought asylum at the Mexican Embassy here, according to reports to this newspaper by reliable sources. Mirtha Elena, a journalist, is wanted by the police for connections with the subversive movement broken up last Thursday. According to our sources, the Mexican Embassy granted the asylum to Mirtha Elena and reported its decision to the Foreign Ministry. The Mexican Embassy also told this newspaper that the Mexican ambassador left the country 3 days ago, and that the only person authorized to give details on the matter is Charge d'Affaires Antonio Perez, who we were unable to contact last night.

SECURITY FORCES UNCOVER BOMB, OTHER WEAPONS

PY170041Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 16 Jan 78 p 23 PY

[Excerpts] High-ranking sources have reported that authorities from the Investigations Department discovered another powerful bomb in a house located in Asuncion, but they refused to give any further details. They stated that everything that is related to the subversive movement will be reported "tomorrow or day after tomorrow." Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro will be in charge of giving details related to this issue. Testimony provided by those arrested reportedly enabled those persons responsible for the investigation to find the bomb, in addition to other weapons and various documents which are at present being investigated by the Political Affairs Department (Investigations Section). It was also learned that all national roads and border checkpoints are being strictly controled by police authorities. All persons, without regard to sex, are being questioned in the search for more subversives.

About 20 persons have reportedly been detained and are being questioned about activities related to the 1 March Organization [Organizacion Primero de Marxo]. Finally, we can report that several persons, among them foreigners, have been detained and taken to the Emboscada jail, thus being at the disposal of the court. They have been also charged with alleged violations of Law No 209.

The Investigations Department has ordered the arrest [Solicita la Captura] of Victor Hugo Ramos Campuzano who was born in Asuncion in 19 June, 1946. He is an university student, son of Victor Hugo Ramos and Angela Campuzano. He lived at Bartolome de las Casas and Carlos Sts. He is reportedly another of the alleged subversives involved with the 1 March Organization. Any information about his whereabouts can be given by calling telephone No 41-636 (Investigations Section).

SALVADORAN, HONDURAN NEGOTIATORS ARRIVE FOR PEACE TALKS

PA180414Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2035 GMT 17 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 17 Jan (AFP)--Arturo Castillo Hidalgo, director general of the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry's Political Affairs Department and his country's negotiator in the peace talks with Honduras, arrived in Lima at noon today. The Honduran negotiator, former Honduran Foreign Minister Cesar Batres, had arrived earlier. They will begin their negotiations here tomorrow together with the mediator, Peruvian jurist Jose Luis Bustamante. Castillo said that his country and Honduras hope that a final and definite agreement will be reached and will lead to the signing of a peace treaty to put an end to the existing controversies.

Castillo said that the most difficult point of the seven-point agenda is free transit from El Salvador to Honduras, now interrupted by the present blockade of the border highway which has been closed since 1969.

Talks Begin

PA191750Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 19 Jan (EFE)--Honduran and Salvadoran negotiators today began initial contacts with the Peruvian mediator in Lima to find a solution to the conflict that broke out between Honduras and El Salvador in 1969. Since then, diplomatic and trade relations between the two countries have been suspended.

Cesar Batres and Arturo Castrillo, Honduran and Salvadoran negotiators, respectively, arrived in Lima yesterday. Both said they trust an agreement will be reached.

The mediator is Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, a former Peruvian president and former president of the International Court of Justice at the Hague. The Salvadoran and Honduran foreign ministers are scheduled to arrive in Lima within 1 month to meet with the mediator, but that will be strictly a protocol visit.

According to Castrillo, the most controversial issue to be discussed during the negotiations is that of "free transit." Other points to be discussed during the negotiations (seven in total) include: peace and treaties [as received], consular and diplomatic relations, border issues, the Central American Common Market, claims and disputes, as well as human and family rights.

Batres, a former Honduran foreign minister, reiterated his desire to settle the dispute peacefully and to forget the differences between the two countries. The negotiations are being held in the mediator's residence.

RICHTER PRADA NEW CHIEF OF JOINT COMMAND

PY191441Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Gen Pedro Richter Prada will be the new chief of the armed forces joint command. This report was released by the current chief of the joint command, Gen Oscar Molina Pallochia. As of 1 February, Molina Pallochia will replace Gen Guillermo Arbulu Galliani, prime minister, war minister and commander in chief of the army, who will go into retirement.

Richter Prada was born in Ayacucho and graduated from the Chorrillos Military School in 1946 as the leading cavalry cadet. He is now the army chief of staff.

MINES MINISTER TO HOLD TRANSPORT MINISTRY TEMPORARILY

PA192210Y Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Peruvian Transportation and Communications Ministry has been temporarily entrusted to Energy and Mines Minister Gen Juan Sanchez Gonzalez. Brig Gen Francisco Miranda Vargas, the present commander of the 5th Military Region, reportedly has been appointed new chief of (?ORD) [not further identified] of Loretto and Lucio Aguilar Condemarin has been appointed new general director of mining following the previous director's resignation.

NEW POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZED

PA171659Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 8 Jan 78 p 2 PA

[Text] A new political party made up of enthusiastic and knowledgeable young professionals, students and workers has been formed. The new party is the Peruvian Unitary Movement (Movimiento Unitario Peruano--MUP).

MUP has a broad political platform that advocates, among other things, the Peruvian Armed and Police Forces' right to vote and the establishment of middle level technical schools in the agricultural, fishing, mining and petroleum sectors as well as in all those sectors that promote production.

MUP also proposes the zoning of our national territory in order to decentralize it from the capital and urges respect for the identity of the Indians, their culture, tradition and history. MUP also advocated the recognition and promotion of the National Cooperatives Movement.

LIMA MUNICIPAL STRIKE DECLARED ILLEGAL

PA2000225Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0025 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 19 Jan (AFP)--The mayor's office of Lima said today that the indefinite general strike declared this morning by the municipal workers of greater Lima is illegal. The Interior Ministry last night warned the workers against holding the strike, which was declared in support of wage demands by several municipal workers' unions that had denounced restrictions of their union rights. The same ministry reminded the strikers today of "the seriousness of their mistake in using grievances as coercive measures in contravention of the existing legal provisions."

The Interior Ministry asked the municipal offices of greater Lima to begin administrative action against the workers who do not return to their jobs starting tomorrow, Friday. It also authorized the municipalities to open registers for job applications to fill the vacancies resulting from the dismissal of workers by administrative action. Finally, it said that the police will guarantee the security of the workers who wish to return to their jobs.

RAUL BENDAHAN APPOINTED AIR FORCE COMMANDER

FY190152Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2015 GMT 18 Jan 78 FY

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 18 Jan--It was officially reported today that Brig Gen Raul Bendahan was designated the new commander in chief of the Uruguayan air force. He will replace the present commander, Gen Dante Paladini, who is retiring because of the age limit established by the air force's organic law.

Meanwhile, the selection of the new commander in chief of the army is expected during the next few hours. The present army commander, Gen Julio Vadora, is retiring after having completed the maximum limit of years as the head of the army.

Bendahan's designation as commander in chief of the Uruguayan air force was disclosed this afternoon after a long meeting of the general officers' junta which took place at an air force installation. The meeting was headed by General Paladini, the air force's highest ranking official, and Brigadier Generals Jose Laume, Raul Bendahan, and Jose Cardozo and Jorge Bora were present. According to the official communique, the voting was secret. He will assume the command with the rank of Brigadier General on Monday, 23 January, at command headquarters during a ceremony which will be presided over by President Aparicio Mendez.

GREGORIA ALVAREZ CHOSEN NEW ARMY CHIEF

FY191523Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1133 GMT 19 Jan 78 FY

[Text] Montevideo, 19 Jan--This morning Gen Gregorio Alvarez was appointed commander of the army, replacing Lt Gen Julio Cesar Vadora. In his new post, General Alvarez will be a member of the Junta of Commanders in Chief which, together with other military organizations, participates in the Uruguayan Government. He was selected as commander in chief [of the army] after a long meeting by the generals' junta. Alvarez is 52 and until the appointment was commander of the 4th Military Region. Earlier he was chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff and permanent secretary of the National Security Council. He has received decorations from the ROC and ROK. Julio Cesar Vadora, the outgoing army commander, will go into retirement on 1 February, since he has passed the maximum 8 years with the rank of general. The turnover of command will take place on that same date and the ceremony will be attended by President Aparicio Mendez, the highest civil and military officials of the country and the diplomatic corps. Alvarez will take up his post with the rank of lieutenant general but will hold it for only 1 year, because on 1 February 1979 he will have held the rank of general for 8 years and will have to go into retirement. Brig Gen Raul Bendahan was yesterday chosen as commander in chief of the air force, replacing Lt Gen Dante Paladini who has reached maximum regulation age. Together with Alvarez and vice adm Hugo Marquez, commander of the navy, Bendahan will form the Junta of Commanders in Chief which participates in the Government of Uruguay.

VENEZUELAN-BRITISH EXPERTS DISCUSS OIL INDUSTRY AGREEMENT

PA191711Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1616 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 18 Jan (AFP)--British and Venezuelan technicians will work together in matters related to the oil industry in Venezuela's eastern and western sectors, Energy and Mines Minister Valentin Hernandez announced here today. He did not say if it involved oil surveying or exploitation. He explained that the Venezuelan Petroleum Company (PETROVEN) will work with British technicians because they "have experience and are offering us equipment and technological aid."

A British mission composed of government officials and industrialists headed by Britain's Energy Minister Jesse Dickson Mabon is here on a 1-week official visit to offer technological aid in the field of energy, especially in offshore oil exploitation. Mabon has already held important talks with top officials such as Minister Hernandez, President Carlos Andres Perez and PETROVEN officials.

COPEI WANTS OFFICIAL MEDIA TO BE WATCHED

PA181950Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Social Christian Party [COPEI] has suggested that the official news media be watched by a control committee made up of the director of the media in question and two representatives of the Supreme Electoral Council. (Hilarion) Cardoso filed the request with the Supreme Electoral Council. He said that this measure will preclude any official advantage during this year's election. He said that COPEI is very much concerned about recent incidents indicative of a curtailment of freedom of expression. He added that publications, radio stations, television and other official media for cultural and propaganda purposes cannot be used for electioneering. It is now up to the Supreme Electoral Council to approve or disapprove the proposal.

NEW GUERRILLA GROUP APPEARS IN TRUJILLO STATE

PA140423Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0034 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Trujillo, Venezuela, 13 Jan (EFE)--Four guerrillas of the so-called Popular Revolutionary Movement [MRP] which operates in eastern Venezuela were captured last night by the country's intelligence services. When they were captured near the town of Carache, Trujillo State, the guerrillas had in their possession military equipment which they were transporting into the mountains where their operations base was presumably located. The individuals are Eddy Jose Trejo, Aliro Coromoto Gil, Julian Bernardo Moreno Viloria and Carlos Alberto Leon Manrique, who have been turned over to military courts.

The arresting officers found leaflets of the new guerrilla movement and of the better known clandestine organization Bandera Roja in the houses where the arrests were made. They also found ammunition, a Trujillo state map, ropes, canned food and medicines. The arrest of the guerrillas occurred hours after guerrilla Francisco Prada Jr escaped from the municipal hospital in Merida with the help of a rescue group which was apparently led by his own father. The Venezuelan state security organizations are now trying to determine the size of the MRP and its possible connections with other subversive groups.

PEMEX DIRECTOR ON TALKS FOR GAS SALE TO UNITED STATES

FL182225Y Mexico City INFORMEX In Spanish 2055 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jan (INFORMEX)--Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) Director General Jorge Diaz Serrano today asserted that Mexico will not take a step backward on energy matters. He pointed out that Mexico is willing to enter into negotiations whenever the United States wants.

"They think that Mexico wants an excessive profit in the sale of gas, but we believe that it is not a question of transportation cost or production cost but the fair price at the international market."

"We are waiting for the United States to agree since these negotiations are seen as one of the biggest operations in many years in the history of the entire world."

Logically, both sides--Mexico and the United States--are in a position to benefit and the United States is entitled to try to obtain the best price, while Mexico has to struggle for a fair and equitable price.

The official emphasized this when interviewed at the Los Pinos residence after release of the joint communique resulting from President Geisel's official visit to Mexico.

Diaz Serrano said that Mexico made a proposal that was accepted by the buyers who, in turn, did not reach agreement and now we are waiting to see if they are willing to pay $2.60 per 1,000 cubic feet and then immediately enter into direct negotiations.

Patrimony and Industrial Development Secretary Jose Andres do Oteyza also was interviewed at Los Pinos. He said that the natural gas offered to the United States is not the one considered for sale to Brazil, but the surplus liquid gas that is produced beginning this year.

BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON 17 JAN TALKS

PY191855Y Rio De Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Jan 78 p 8 PY

[Presumed text of interview with Brazilian Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira on 17 Jan in Mexico City]

[Text] Question: What precisely were the topics of today's discussions?

Answer: Today we tried to systematically arrange what was discussed yesterday (briefings on the economic situation of both countries).

Q: Can you give a concrete example of this arrangement?

A: We will expand cooperation in various fields, such as steel production and others. I believe we have achieved very important results in trade. The following conclusion was arrived at: trade started from practically nothing; we had $20 million in trade in 1965. In 1976, with the visit of President Echeverria (the visit took place in 1974), we experienced a great thrust forward and reached $350 million.

Last year our trade was substantial and reached between $220 million and $230 million, although there was a decrease instead of an increase. This was studied and we concluded that trade needs to be supported by adequate financial resources. We are going to expand reciprocal lines of credit. We will study ways to facilitate use of these lines of credit. We will try to reach financial agreements which will allow greater contacts between banks of the two countries. We will try to set financing rates which will permit us to confront any competition from third countries.

Q: Which Brazilian products have the best trade prospects with Mexico in the short term?

A: Obviously, the most important sector includes raw materials and agricultural products. Our countries' position in this field is very similar. We favor minimum prices capable of paying all production sectors, including workers. There is no reason to recoil from this as a bad situation [incos] just because it is what the industrialized nations want. Our two countries will do their best to establish a minimum price policy, and even consider the possibility of paying a maximum bonus for prices below a certain limit.

Obviously, all this is linked to greater transportation rationalization--a field which has improved since President Echeverria's visit. At that time there was practically no navigation between our two countries. Last year there were four voyages per month and 86 dockings in Mexican ports.

Q: What about political issues?

A: They were throughly discussed. We did not avoid any subject. On the contrary, we agreed on many things.

Q: Did Brazil disclose its stand on the subject of nuclear energy?

A: Yes, it did. I believe the Mexican Government understands the Brazilian Government's stand perfectly.

Q: Have you discussed Cuba's reintegration into the inter-American system?

A: No, the problem in question touches Mexico and the United States much closer than it does Brazil. Obviously, if there were a country in South American which held a position similar to that of Cuba, our role would be different.

Q: The Mexican foreign minister stated that he would ask through you that Brazil agree to waive Article 28 of the Tlatelolco Treaty.

A: Our explanation was understood perfectly by the Mexicans. It was the following: The objective was to make Latin American a denuclearized zone, that is, a zone protected from nuclear attacks, which could not be used as a strategic depot by any nuclear power. At the same time, the idea was that those [Latin American] countries should give up nuclear armament. Brazil believes that the commitment to not manufacture nuclear weapons can be achieved by simply signing this treaty. A country which signs a treaty which has a regulation on not manufacturing nuclear weapons, cannot carry out any action against this treaty, even though it is not fully in effect. Brazil sees no reason to give up the other objective of the treaty, which is to not allow the strategic utilization of the continent in case of nuclear confrontation. Otherwise, there would be a process of mutilation of Latin America without there being any guarantees to protect us from nuclear powers. There are still countries which have not signed [the treaty], and we wish to draw attention to this fact.

It is necessary for everyone to sign it in order to make effective the commitment to not manufacture nuclear weapons, but it is equally necessary for Latin America to demand that it must not be used strategically for nuclear purposes, and that it must be free from any nuclear attack, because anything else would be to mutilate the continent.

Mexico and Brazil have the same attitude toward disarmament, the same attitude all developing countries have. We support the Third World. We have not changed our positions for the last 20 years. All our positions in the International Monetary Fund, on financial matters and the subject of basic products are in agreement. We have always agreed on the subject of raw materials.

We Latin Americans are too concerned over criticizing each other and destroying each other. That is not what Latin America needs. What Latin America needs is to be able to face foreign pressures and defend its own interests. Thus, what we do is behave like poor people unable to show some solidarity for each other, and we kick each other when we should be together to fight, because our interests are truly endangered by foreign pressures. What can a little or even a medium-sized country do against us? That is stupid. We are more critical toward our own brothers than toward countries outside the continent.

Azeredo on Nuclear Energy

PA191421Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Brazil uses nuclear energy for very peaceful purposes, Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira said when he was interviewed during a social function hosted by Mexican authorities in honor of Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel during his visit to Mexico.

The Brazilian minister said that his country has not violated the first agreement which it signed in Tlatelolco regarding the ban on nuclear weapons in Latin America.

We are not stockpiling strategic materials or equipment for developing weapons. We need energy. [words indistinct] nuclear energy, Azeredo da Silveira said. The foreign minister stated that Brazil does not allow its territory to be used for the shipment of strategic materials, nor does it store them.

Asked about areas of common interest to Mexico and Brazil, the Brazilian foreign minister said that our two nations agree in several areas, seek better prices for their products and defend the value of our currency in the International Monetary Fund. We are countries which seek development in peace and the best possible relations with the countries in the rest of the world, Azeredo da Silveira said. In addition, [?as noted] in the joint communique issued by Mexico and Brazil, the two countries will adopt common measures to defend the prices of their raw materials, particularly coffee.

The foreign minister was also asked about the military regime which governs his country. Azeredo da Silveira said that in Latin America we are more critical of each other than of the other countries of the world. Instead of attacking each other, we should unite, he said.

EXPECTATION VOICED THAT TREATIES WILL BE RATIFIED

PA191706Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1220 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] When the Senate Foreign Relations Committee resumes its hearings this morning, it will be evident that the prospects for approval of the treaties will have increased by 75 percent. Yesterday afternoon at the end of their 40-hour visit to Panama the Committee's members said Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos did not object to the inclusion in the treaties of the joint declaration he made with President Carter on the U.S. right to defend the canal after the year 2000 when the canal will be turned over to Panama. The main opposition to the treaty hinged on this point, and many of the 17 (?old men) will now adopt the Carter administration's line.

FEP LEADER REJECTS TREATY CHANGES

PA200315Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Federation of Panamanian Students [FEP] has stated that it will not accept amendments to the canal treaties. It also called for the establishment of committees in defense of the revolutionary process. This was stated by FEP Secretary General Mario Panther during a national meeting of student leaders as well as peasant and workers delegates this afternoon. The following is an excerpt of Panther's speech:

[Panther--begin recording] We call for the establishment of committees in defense of the [revolutionary] process in each of the country's corregimientos to watch over actions of those forces that are struggling against the process. [applause] At the height of this phase, our people cannot continue to play the role of spectators in the face of the present political situation. Our people must play a qualitatively greater role. Our people must denounce the conspirators. That is why we believe that committees in defense of the process should be stablished in each of the country's corregimientos. They will be committees of consolidation of the process. They should watch over and denounce the role that seditious individuals are playing in our country. The FEP commits itself to promote this work in each of the country's corregimientos. [applause]

We want to reiterate what we said in Porras Square during the 9 January commemoration. We are not going to accept any form of political balckmail against our people as a condition for the ratification of the treaty. We have already expressed our rejection of the presence of senators who far from coming to learn the reality of our country come to blackmail the process in order to obtain guarantees about the future course of the national liberation struggle in our country. That is why, aware of the responsibility which is is entailed in launching this effort, we have said that if ratification fails, arms for liberation. And we have said that it is not a matter of an indefinite period of time. We reiterate that if in the next 3 months the U.S. Senate does not concur in the ratification demanded by our people the popular movement reserves the right to look for other forms of struggle, different from the forms of peaceful struggle. We have waited 75 years and our people are not going to wait 1 more year or many more months for the ratification of that treaty. [end recording]

Those were the statements of FEP Secretary General Mario Panther, who also condemned the legalization of the traditional political parties. Panther released to the press a lengthy statement which stresses that if ratification fails in the Senate, the student movement and the organized people will reserve the right to adopt the proper paths in the struggle to achieve full sovereignty over all the national territory.

CRITICA HAILS INCORPORATION OF 'MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING'

PA191925Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Jan 78 p 12 PA

[Excerpt] Gen Omar Torrijos has again demonstrated his sense of historic responsibility regarding a peaceful solution to the canal problem by announcing that the content of the "Memorandum of Understanding" which clarifies the Torrijos-Carter treaties can be incorporated into the texts of the treaty.

In this way, in the face of the problem of amending the treaties--which would have sabotaged the pacts concluded with so much difficulty after over 10 years of negotiation--the path taken yesterday at Contadora holds out a ray of hope that the Torrijos-Carter treaties will pass through the difficult bottleneck of the U.S. Senate.

Obviously, after the statements General Torrijos made yesterday on the beautiful Pacific Island, very littel room is left for opponents, both in the United States and in Panama, to justify failure to ratify the treaty in the United States.

Of course, it is not easy for the Panamanian Government and its top leader to accept what so far has frankly appeared to be an imposition. However, great decisions are not made on the basis of emotion. Fortunately, on this occasion maturity has prevailed, and it must be emphasized that it has been maturity on the Panamanian side, which should not be confused at any time with cowardice or improvisation.

Actually, neither is it a step backward from the Panamanian position. It will be remembered that during his last public appearance before the plebiscite on 23 October of last year, General Torrijos clearly said that the famous memorandum of understanding reached with President Jimmy Carter during his last trip to the United States was among the matters being voted on freely and democratically.

MOVEMENT AGAINST POLITICAL PARTIES ORGANIZED

PA191726Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Cocle Front of Popular Organizations has been formed to confront the escalating attempts by the traditional political parties to return to power. Dario Fernandez was elected secretary general. He is a well-known mass leader of the province. The front is composed of the peasant groups, labor unions, and women, students and professional organization, as well as civic and state organizations.

At the meeting in which the front was established, it was decided to draw up a plan of action which calls for the forming of district and corregimiento committees and an intense campaign of political orientation directed at the community. The front immediately spoke against the return of political parties, which various speakers said would mean a step backward and a return to the old practices of administrative corruption experienced during the administration of these misdirected parties which always followed the personal and economic interests of their owners.

The Cocle Front of Popular Organizations will meet with civilian and military authorities in order to secure support for their campaign to preserve the conquests of popular power.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT ODUBER LEAVES FOR MIAMI MEETING ON CARIBBEAN

PA191911Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] President Daniel Oduber left today for Miami, where he will take part in a conference of Caribbean nations on area development.

Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer will be there and will inaugurate the conference tonight.

President Oduber has been asked to give the closing speech on Friday at 2000. Oduber will take advantage of the opportunity to talk with important government authorities of participating countries and will discuss some ideas regarding economic and trade relations between developed and developing nations.

ANTI-COSTA RICAN CAMPAIGN BEGINS IN UNITED STATES

PA191936Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Costa Rican Government has received information and proof that a campaign to discredit this country has started in the United States. The campaign is being promoted by the OSP [not further identified] organization in Washington, New York, California and some other states. Flysheets are being distributed that say the Costa Rican Government has carried out a massacre in Limoncito, Puerto Limon, has imprisoned many persons, and has infringed upon other human and civic rights. The flysheets were thrown in front of the Costa Rican Embassy in Washington and in front of consulate offices.

Official spokesmen say the flysheet campaign against us depicts the Costa Rican Government as one that infringes upon the people's human rights. In the flysheets, the OSP says it hopes President Carter is informed of this so he will ask President Oduber to put an end to this abnormal state of affairs.

Our government authorities are reportedly compiling the necessary proof not only to stop the campaign but to find out who is responsible because the campaign originates in Costa Rica.

GOVERNMENT ASKS FOR OAS OBSERVERS DURING ELECTIONS

PA192014Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1737 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 19 Jan (AFP)--Last night, the Costa Rican Government asked that OAS observers be present during the 5 February general elections.

Foreign relations and presidency ministers, Gonzalo Facio and Fernando Volio, respectively, presented the request to the president of the Supreme Election Tribunal.

The ministers were acting at the request of Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber, who expressed "the executive branch's interest in inviting the OAS to send observers to the coming presidential election."

Oduber said: "The presence of observers will show the world Costa Rica's democratic vocation and the government's decision to guarantee honest elections."

GUATEMALA

GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY HOLD 20 SOLDIERS CAPTIVE

PA191730Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1505 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--It was learned here today that 20 Guatemalan Army soldiers are being held by a guerrilla group which ambushed a military patrol in Huehuetenango Department last Tuesday.

In the skirmish, 2d Lt Sergio Moguera Portillo, the leader of the patrol, was killed. His body was brought to the capital for burial yesterday.

Airborne troops have been sent to the Ixcan area, where the ambush took place, to locate the rebels, who are believed be members of the clandestine Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP).

POLICE SEARCH GUERRILLA HIDEOUT IN SUCHITEPEQUEZ

PA192005Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1540 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan police revealed today that a guerrilla hideout was raided on Tuesday in Suchitepequez and that documents belonging to former Foreign Minister Roberto Herrera Ibarguen and businessman Luis Comas, who were kidnaped by the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) were found.

The subversives' hideout was located by government security forces when a contingent searching for Herrera Ibarguen clashed with guerrillas in an encounter during which three guerrillas and two policemen were killed.

When searching the building, an isolated house near San Bernardino town, the police found Herrera Ibarguen's and Comas' personal identification papers together with modern weapons, ammunition and medical equipment, including 2 machineguns, 16 pistols, 14 fragmentation grenades, 12 carbines and other supplies.

Only one of the three dead guerrillas has been identified: a young woman named Maria Elena Garcia Morales or Gloria Paiz Carcamo, 28, a rural teacher who, machinegun in hand, held off the police while 4 other guerrillas escaped.

Police and military reinforcements were sent to Suchitepequez, in southern Guatemala, when the dead guerrillas were found to have connections with the kidnapers of Herrera Ibarguen, 53, a prominent businessman, anticommunist politician and vice president of the Council of State. Herrera Ibarguen has been held by the Marxist EGP since 31 December.

The same group also appears to be connected with the kidnaping of paper industrialist Ariamany, who was seized 40 days ago and taken to an unknown location by several armed men as he left his factory in a southern district of Guatemala City.

In both cases, the kidnapers have not had further communications with the captives' relatives. Herrera Ibarguen's family has already met the guerrillas' demands--publication in all information media of two declarations and payment of a ransom estimated at $2 million.

BRIEFS

COFFEE RUST CAMPAIGN--Minister of Economy Ramiro Ponce Monroy has reported that nearly 20 million quetzales have been spent in the effort to fight and prevent coffee rust. Since funds are running out, the minister said, the 17th meeting of Central American Economic Integration Bank governors last week ordered the implementation of a financing program to be carried out by all members. Each country will contribute 2.2 million quetzales. [Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 17 Jan 78 PA] [SERCANO Network]

CATTLE PRODUCTION FIGURES--Dr Mario Antonio (Mote), livestock affairs director in the Ministry of Agriculture, has reported that cattle production amounts to about 25 percent of the agricultural sector's contribution to the Gross National Product. It totaled 53.1 million quetzales in (?1975) and 125.9 million in 1976. [Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 78 PA]

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS--Julio Cesar Rivera, who has been serving as chief of police in San Pedro Sula, has been named chief of the Department of National Investigation (DIN). In addition, Lt Juan Angel Barahona has been appointed chief of INTERPOL in Tegucigalpa. [San Pedro SULA TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Jan 78 p 4 PA]

NICARAGUA

CONSERVATIVE PARTY REQUESTS ELECTIONS POSTPONEMENT

PA191314Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Conservative Party yesterday decided to ask for the postponement of the municipal elections scheduled for 5 February. The party decided to make the petition because it felt the proper conditions do not exist for elections at this time. The request is also a response to the murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, a crime which has yet to be solved.

Before the Conservatives made their request, Somoza had said that he would go alone with his party--the Liberal Party--to the elections.

The Conservatives have received support for their position from other political organizations such as the National Democratic Union, the strongest of the opposition sector.

Chamorro's widow asked the Conservatives not to participate in the elections in memory of Pedro Joaquin. However, if the Conservatives are not granted the postponement, they will lose their legal standing.

PRINCIPAL SUSPECT IN CHAMORRO KILLING DENIES COMPLICITY

PA200210Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2355 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Silvio Pena Rivas, the key prisoner in the investigation of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's murder on 10 January, today denied before a Managua Judge that he had any part in the crime.

Pena Rivas was taken under extraordinary security measures to give his testimony before Judge Guillermo Rivas Cuadra, who is investigating the murder which has shaken this Central American country. Previously, on Saturday 14 January, Pena Rivas declared before Police Judge Col Luis Ocon that he had hired Chamorro's killers. He also declared having received 100,000 cordobas (314,285) from the Cuban Pedro Ramos Quiroz to kill the journalist. Today however, he changed his story. He contended that everything he told the police--he has signed more than six statements--was the result of fatigue, pain and the positions he was in during the interrogations, which lasted days and nights while he was handcuffed most of the time.

Pena Rivas' testimony began at 1400 today (2000 GMT) and is continuing into the late afternoon. It is being broadcast to the country over a network of radio stations. The Nicaraguan people are following the investigation with great interest.

OPPOSITION PLANS MASS, MARCH TO CHAMORRO'S TOMB

PA200109Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2311 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 19 Jan (EFE)--[illegible]ition political parties will say a mass next Saturday on the ninth day after the burial of murdered newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal. The program includes a mass at Las Palmas Church and a march to the cemetery where floral wreaths will be placed at the tomb of the distinguished politician, vehement critic and opponent of the Somozist regime.

The pro-government newspaper NOVEDADES warned that the march could degenerate into new rioting like that which a mob of youths caused, burning and pilfering shops and factories the day after Chamorro's murder. The Democratic Liberation Union [UDEL], which groups eight political parties and two labor centrals and organized the ceremony in memory of their former president, rejected the warning, considering it "a provocation by the Somoza family's newspaper."

"We are a civic resistance movement acting in a peaceful manner. In our ranks there are no anarchists or assassins," Pedro J. Quintanilla, a former Somoza regime official and leader of the Liberal Constitutionalist Movement, a UDEL member group, told ACAN-EFE.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS SAFECONDUCTS TO TWO CITIZENS

PA192212Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1704 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government has granted safeconducts to leave the country to citizens who had sought asylum in the Mexican and Venezuelan embassies. A youth, Manuel Antonio Robles Mojica, had taken refuge in the Mexican Embassy last month, alleging that his freedom was threatened because of his activities as a member of the clandestine Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN). His father, Diego Manuel Robles, a criminal lawyer, confirmed to newsmen today that Manuel Antonio left for Mexico City yesterday. Another son, also named Diego Manuel, left for Mexico with a group of political refugees last November.

Rene Pineda Espinoza, a former employee of the National Security Office, remains in the Venezuelan Embassy. He requested asylum there after giving information to the Permanent Human Rights Commission regarding the prisons where several peasants who were thought to be dead have been detained for almost 2 years.

An official spokesman for the embassy--the ambassador is currently in Caracas--said today that the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has already granted the respective safeconduct and Pineda Espinoza will leave for Venezuela shortly.

RADIO NOTES ETHIOPIAN STATEMENTS ON SOMALI CONFLICT

FL200050Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Today, the Ethiopian Government denounced Somalia's intention to internationalize the present conflict between both countries with the participation of Iran and Saudi Arabia. The Ethiopian Information Ministry issued a statement which denounced the Somali intention to have Irani and Saudi troops join its regular forces, which have undertaken an invasion of Ethiopia. The document adds that this intention is the reason for the recent statements by Somalia on the preparation of a supposed invasion of its territory by Ethiopia, Cuba and the USSR.

The declaration also points out that the economic crisis in Somalia is the result of its aggression on Ethiopia and the contradictory position which pretends to denounce an invasion intention by an aggressor country. The Ethiopian declaration states that the Somali allegations constitute an act of duplicity and a pretext to internationalize the conflict. The document concludes by stating that Ethiopia does not have territorial interests in any neighboring country including Somalia, which invaded Ethiopian territory as a result of its expansionist policy--a policy which is also directed at Djibouti and parts of Kenya.

Meanwhile in London, the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry permanent secretary issued a similar statement at a press conference. The Ethiopian diplomat said that his country asked the United States, Great Britain and their Middle East allies to renounce their intentions to internationalize the conflict in the so-called Horn of Africa. Wolde Giorgis made public a declaration which accuses the United States of being the principle instigator in the maneuvers designed to internationalize the Somali-Ethiopian conflict--maneuvers with the goal of dividing Ethiopia and strangling its revolution.

COMMENTARY SCORES 'FASCIST' LATIN AMERICAN REGIMES

FL191625Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 19 Jan 78 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry Combatants Political Information Program commentary]

[Text] The regimes of Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Brazil are marching on the same path of fascism, condemned by progressive mankind. In Guatemala, more than 20,000 Guatemalans have been murdered since the overthrow of Jacobo Arbenz' government. From 1 January 1976 to 15 December of the same year, 362 persons were massacred in that country, riddled with gunfire and with the violence and torture that characterize the government in power.

To the dramatic situation existing in Guatemala, one must add the economic resources provided by transnationals and imperialism to encourage the Guatemalan regime to annex the territory of Belize for the purpose of establishing structures of neocolonial domination in Belize which would attempt to control Central America and the Caribbean.

In Chile, following the overthrow of the Popular Unity government, Pinochet and his "Pinochos" [henchmen] unleashed an ironlike terror. Since then, the Chilean fascists have destroyed hundreds of lives, while several thousands of patriots have been imprisoned, tortured and vanished.

This is fascism, its essence. This is the price the Chilean workers are paying for asking for bread and freedom, for claiming their rights and demanding justice, for loving and defending the country of their birth. But these regimes, which are struggling in the midst of economic catastrophe, hunger, poverty, illiteracy and unemployment, are daily realities.

In their pompous speeches, the heads of these regimes talk about human rights and democracy. The restorers of fascism in Latin America--the loyal followers of Hitler and Mussolini--talk about human rights and democracy. It is paradoxical. Which human rights and which democracy are they referring to when the workers are mistreated, when their gains are taken away from them, and when their right to demand, discuss and propose constitutional norms is denied? Which human rights are they talking about and which democracy are they referring to when the workers are not even guaranteed at least subsistence wages? They are dismissed en masse from factories, arrested and tortured. How can anyone talk about human rights and democracy in countries where the people are prohibited from speaking out, where the right of assembly or the right to demand do not exist.

The Chilean, Uruguayan, Paraguayan, Nicaraguan, Guatemalan and Brazilian jails are filled with political prisoners. Repression continues to increase and paramilitary organizations, such as Brazil's Death Squad or the so-called White Hand in Guatemala, are used to kidnap and murder the workers, opposition leaders and students.

But crime as a system cannot check the struggle. The workers, peasants, students and intellectuals are stepping up their efforts and uniting their ideas. The cry for liberty resounds throughout the continent. The appeal to justice will put an end to infamy and exploitation and a new social system will be established where the workers are the real owners of their destiny in our America.

Commentator Scores Bolivian Regime

FL190235Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Jan 78 FL

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Text] The critical situation that prevails in Bolivia shows among other things how difficult it is for imperialism to change the image of the fascist dictatorships it has helped to create in some Latin American countries. In all such countries where attempts have been made at a democratic opening, popular discontent has been unleashed through a crack of the opening with simultaneous internal contradictions in such regimes.

We have the case of Chile, where Pinochet tried to legalize the dictatorship he maintains there through a fraudulent plebiscite that generated popular protests, mass actions and serious internal problems when the junta military chiefs disagreed with the plebiscite. We can also cite the case of Brazil, where the first attempts at such openings by the Geisel regime caused a torrent of great political activity that had to be drastically plugged.

And now Bolivia confirms this rule, which, under similar circumstances, so far has shown that there is no exception. The simple announcement by the dictatorship of Gen Hugo Banzer that there would be elections on 9 July 1978 opened the doors to a powerful movement of the masses that has been manifested throughout the entire country and has placed the regime in a crisis. The Trade Union Federation of Mine Workers, the leadership of which operates clandestinely, called a strike that has been a hard blow to Banzer. At the same time, and in support of labor demands for political and labor amnesty, a hunger strike began, which was joined by men, women, old people and children until the number exceeded 1,000 in 8 of the country's cities.

The lukewarm opening step of the Bolivian regime has been received by the people with demands for a real democratic opening. And it is appropriate to clarify that a real democratic opening does not figure in the plans of Banzer, Pinochet, Geisel or in those of North American imperialism.

The crack which Banzer tried to open demagogically has become a big hole through which the Bolivian people's aspirations for freedom--people tired of exploitation and repression--have burst. In addition to this, serious disagreements have been seen within the Bolivian Armed Forces; a clash between the regime and the church has taken place; and Banzer has become more aware of the degree of unpopularity and repudiation of his dictatorship since important sectors of the native oligarchy have joined the protests.

Banzer now wants to close the crack. He has unleashed a brutal repression in the country, jailing hundreds of persons and removing those on hunger strikes from wherever they were. He has not even respected the church in this repressive offensive. His henchmen have arrested a nun and three priests, generating angry protests from La Paz Archbishop Jorge Manrique and Cardinal Jose Clemente Maurer of Sucre, who supported the hunger strike.

Banzer this morning was forced to announce a general amnesty, which actually is nothing more than a demagogic maneuver to try to contain the popular discontent. The scope of the amnesty has not been disclosed. On the contrary, Banzer has announced that the enemies of Bolivia--of course, Bolivia is Banzer--have been punished severely, and he has repeated the old story, coined by imperialism and the CIA for the use of Latin American dictators, about an international and subversive conspiracy--an old story that no longer convinces anyone.

The imperialist master and his lackeys have a difficult task in wanting to beautify the ugly face of the continent's fascist and repressive dictatorships. In this case, imperialism has been faced with the same thing that happened to the creator of Frankenstein: After getting the monster to walk, it is now very difficult to stop it so that it does not spoil imperialism's beautiful human rights campaign.

FIDEL CASTRO MEETS WITH PORTUGAL'S MELO ANTUNES

FL191240Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 19 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, has met with Maj Ernesto Melo Antunes, member of Portugal's Council of the Revolution and president of the Constitutional Commission.

The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, and both sides examined aspects of the international situation that were of mutual interest.

FERNANDEZ MELL LEAVES FOR ROME MEETING ON CHILE

FL191240Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Oscar Fernandez Mell, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of Havana City's People's Government Provincial Assembly, has departed for Florence, Italy, to participate in the International Conference of World Cities for Chile's Freedom. During the meeting, topics dealing with Chile's current situation and with international solidarity with the Chilean people in the struggle against the regime of Gen Augusto Pinochet will be discussed.

CUBA TO AID IN PREPARATION OF UNESCO DECLARATION

FL191235Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Cuba, Guyana, Venezuela and Argentina were designated members of the commission that will prepare the final declaration of the Fourth UNESCO Intergovernmental Conference on Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean. The document will be submitted for the consideration of and ratification by the plenary session next Friday when the meeting being held in Bogota, Colombia, is scheduled to end.

The debates will focus attention on the discussion of more than 70 proposals submitted by the delegations attending the forum. These proposals deal with cultural identity in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as with development and cooperation on that front.

VALDES CHAIRS CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS MINISTRY MEETING

FL182116Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1903 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Ramiro Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, is chairing the meeting being held to assess 1977 production of the Construction Materials Industry Ministry. The meeting opened this morning at the ministry's auditorium. Minister Jose Valle Roque; Aldo Alvarez, chief of the PCC Central Committee Construction Department; and other officials and leaders are also presiding over the meeting.

The report on the ministry's productive work last year states that the plan was 96 percent fulfilled with 6 percent growth in comparison to the previous year. It was reported that one of the ministry's principal achievements last year was the overfulfillment of the cement production goal, with 11,340 tons above plan.

At the assessment meeting being held at the Construction Materials Ministry, it was announced that the most outstanding provinces for their work last year were Matanzas, Ciego de Avila, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Las Tunas and the Isle of Pines Special Municipality. So far, the outstanding enterprises were the ceramics, mechanical and energy enterprises. The report emphasizes the need for savings and improved quality.

The plan for this year, which should register an 11-percent growth over last year, was assessed at the plenary meeting, which is being attended by all vice ministers and chiefs of delegations and enterprises. The meeting to assess the work of the Construction Materials Industry Ministry, which is being chaired by Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes Menendez, will continue throughout today.

JUAN ALMEIDA CHAIRS MEETING IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL181907Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1833 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque has chaired a meeting in Santiago de Cuba. The meeting reviewed the activities being carried out by the province in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks assault and the 11th [world youth and students] festival. (William Puentes), vice president of the People's Government Municipal Assembly in Santiago de Cuba, read the central report on the activities undertaken by Santiago de Cuba Province. At the meeting, Juan Almeida called for support of the proposed tasks and pointed out that cleaning and beautification of the city should be a concern and a task for all. Also presiding at the event were Jose Ramon Balaguer, PCC Central Committee member and Santiago de Cuba Province party first secretary, along with other leaders of the party and state organs at this level.

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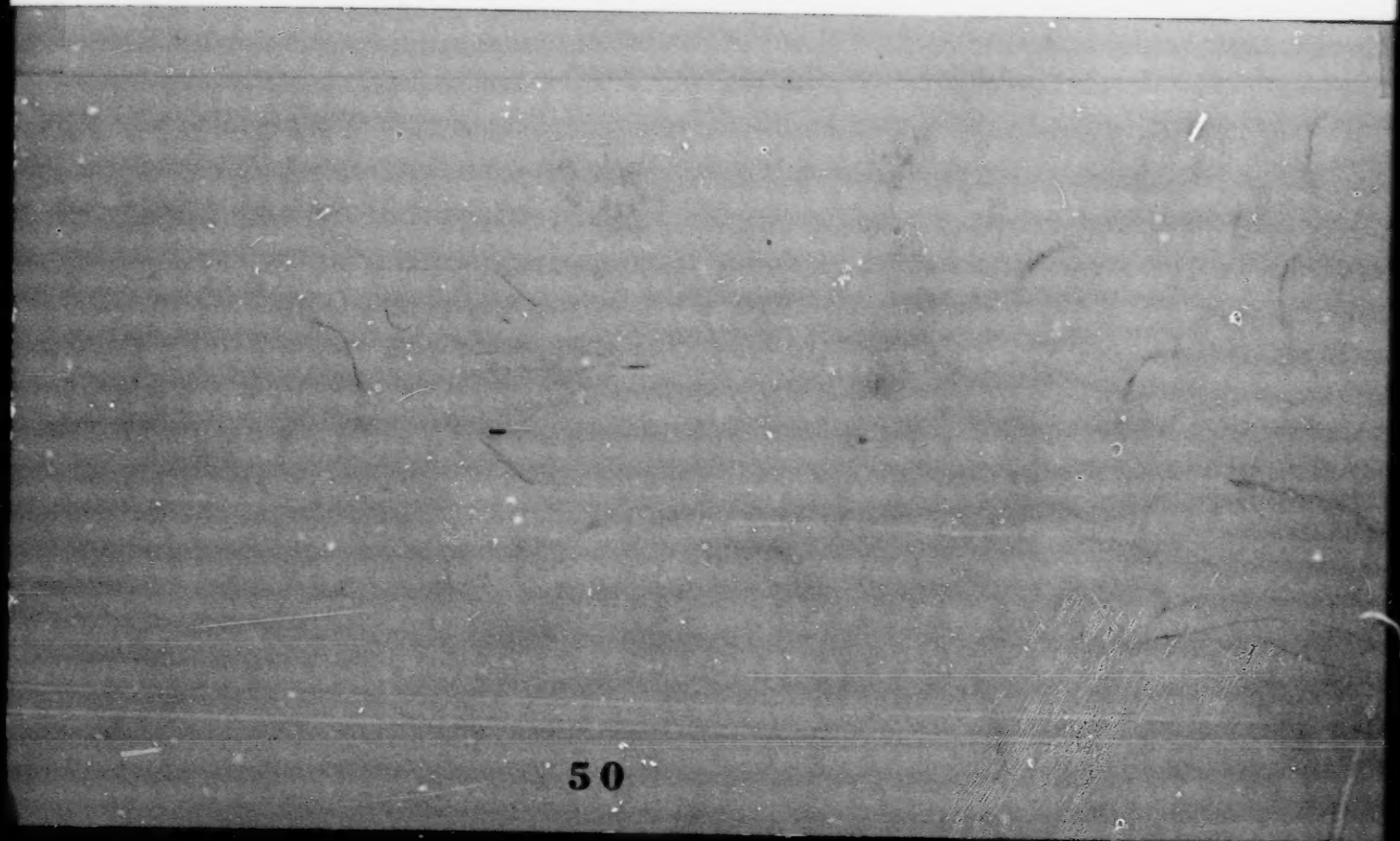
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